



STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR 9/22/11
9:00-10:00 PM

Meeting Location:
IDHS, 401 S. Clinton, Secretary's Conference Room, 7th Floor

- I. Roll Call: Kate Maehr, Cristal Thomas, Tracy Smith, Carissa Gomez; on phone: Grace Hou, Allison Forrer

Not Present: Mark Ishaug
- II. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting: Tracy Smith moved, Cristal Thomas seconded, minutes approved
- III. Review and discuss proposed issue/recommendation structure
 - a. What would the state like to see change:
 - i. Cristal: State is in agreement with many of the suggestions that have been made so far. Unfortunately the State does not control the funding around them. Recommendation to bring attention to this.
 - ii. Grace:
 - 1. Relooking at how programs are situated and how they relate to each other. Looking at January for changes.
 - 2. Ford Foundation grant: Villa Park is one of the first sites to be a test site.
 - 3. Will work to put forth some recommendations. Grace will lead a discussion. Have Jen and Alicia bring them together and share them with the Commission. They will put together the meeting.
 - iii. Need administrative funding to keep these projects moving forward.
 - iv. Grace will share Human Services Commission findings with Kate and Tracy.
 - b. Recommendation Structure:
 - i. Moving away from structuring recommendations under "population" headings.
 - ii. Put the categories into actions:
 - 1. LINK: Create ways to connect people to programs better
 - a. Need to be honest about the challenges that we face
 - b. How do we get more to actually participate in these programs
 - 2. PARTNER: Collaboration with others
 - 3. STRENGTHEN: Enhance the safety net
 - a. Cristal pointed out that part of this needs to include doing what is possible to keep the safety net sustainable.
 - b. Need to inform people of the value of these programs and have them become advocates for them.
 - iii. Recommendations should be very specific and can populate the framework
 - 1. Use Illinois Migrant Council's recommendations and fill them in on the framework
 - 2. Collecting data would fit under strengthen.

- iv. How do we facilitate this conversation with the Commission?
 - 1. Have the working groups present reports
 - 2. Identify overarching themes
 - 3. Do not present this document

IV. Listening Tour Check-In

- a. Recent events have been in Cairo and East Saint Louis.
- b. Building many connections in local communities. This type of opportunity for collaboration is valuable. Need to have funding to support collaboration among groups.
- c. Issues that were raised:
 - i. Food deserts
 - ii. Transportation

V. Share Our Strength Update

- a. GCFD has signed a memorandum of understanding with Share Our Strength.
- b. Next step is to hire a No Kid Hungry Campaign manager. Hoping to have someone hired by early October. Will support the Commission with writing the policy and carrying out plans.
- c. Interest in doing an event to kick off the campaign.

VI. Discuss the agenda for the September 26 Commission Meeting

- a. Administrative: roll call, approve minutes, approve objectives, phone structure
- b. Give Commissioners the opportunity to share their thoughts from the Listening Tours
 - i. Action item: Identify Commissioners to share reflections.
- c. Reports from the working groups:
 - i. How has your working group progressed/overview? Who has joined/who is represented?
 - ii. What issues have you seen arise?
 - iii. What recommendations are you starting to form?
 - iv. Discuss with them the themes – are they comfortable with this?
- d. Identify Themes and Framework
- e. Need for additional information for working groups/Resources/Data
- f. Next Steps: need to identify additional information for working groups – resources and data.